California Postsecondary Education Commission

Legislative Update, May 2006

AB 358 (Liu) -- Recommended Position -- Continue Support

AB 358 has been amended to express legislative intent that the maximum grant for tuition and fees for Cal Grant awards at independent or other non-profit institutions be set and adjusted annually to equal 90 percent of the estimated General Fund cost of educating a student at a public four-year institution. The prior version proposed that the maximum grant be set equal to 100 percent of the General Fund cost. The bill would increase the maximum amount of a Cal Grant at these institutions to a minimum of $9,708 per academic year. This is the level currently in the Governor's Budget. Additionally, the bill would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to convene a work group to determine data to be submitted by these institutions and require the California Student Aid Commission to require submission of the data. This bill is currently in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 1072 (Liu) -- Recommended Position -- Continue Support

AB 1072 has been amended to replace the legislature's recommended process for setting student fee levels from a "gradual, moderate, and predictable" model to a "Student Affordability" model. The proposed policy is consistent with the "Set of Principles" adopted by the Commission at the last meeting. The bill would also request that the Legislative Analyst's Office report on the affordability of undergraduate education at the California State University and the University of California. This bill is in the Senate Education Committee awaiting a hearing date.

AB 2810 (Liu) -- Recommended Position -- Support

AB 2810 would provide additional grounds by which the Bureau of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE) could refuse to issue or renew an institution's approval to operate. The bill would also add the crime of conferring or attempting to confer a fraudulent or substandard degree to the list of prohibited acts. This bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

ACR 34 (Liu) -- Recommended Position -- Continue Support

ACR 34 would state legislative intent for a compact with students in California's institutions of higher education. It would recommend that such a compact include recommendations related to various student issues including student fee and financial aid policies, sufficient institutional funding to ensure students' access to and success in courses needed to complete their academic or vocational program, limitations on student loan debt, and diversity of the student bodies and graduating classes at the institutions. This bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee scheduled for hearing on May 10, 2006.

SB 1383 (Ortiz) -- Recommended Position -- Support

SB 1383 would provide two additional ways which students could be considered to have obtained a high school diploma for purposes of qualifying for a Cal Grant. A student could either: (1) satisfy every requirement of graduation from the last high school of attendance, except for the passage of the high school exit examination, or (2) meet the requirements for designation by the United States Department of Education that he or she has the ability to benefit from the education or training being pursued or contemplated. This bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1751 (Speier) -- Recommended Position -- Support

This bill would increase the number of annual "competitive" Cal Grants that may be awarded to eligible students by the California Student Aid Commission from 22,500 to 34,000. This bill is currently in the Senate Education Committee without a recommendation for further action.

SB 1264 (Alquist) -- Recommended Position -- Support

SB 1264 would increase the number of annual "competitive" Cal Grants that may be awarded to eligible students by the California Student Aid Commission from 22,500 to 23,000. This bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee awaiting a hearing date.